

BDAC Ecosystem Roundtable Meeting Summary November 8, 1996

Draft Meeting Summary

Gary Bobker opened the meeting as Acting Chairperson. There were no revisions to the draft agenda that had been mailed to participants in October.

Following an introduction by Lester Snow on the mission of the Ecosystem Roundtable and the associated section of Proposition 204, Mary Scoonover gave a presentation on conflict of interest provisions that apply to members of the Roundtable. The attached handout summarizes key points of these provisions. Roundtable meetings are open to the public, and require publication of a public notice and agenda. All decision making must occur in a properly noticed, public meeting. Requirements and restrictions regarding noticing of meetings, content of meetings, and discussion of Roundtable business between Roundtable members outside of the published meeting time are addressed in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and the State Open Meeting Act. Members were advised to consult with Mary if they have any questions or concerns related to compliance with these requirements. It was noted that associated work groups that may be formed are fact-finding bodies, and their meetings (in contrast to Roundtable meetings) may not be subject to the same public meeting requirements.

Cindy Darling presented the operating procedures for the Roundtable, and addressed the need to make a decision regarding selection of a chairperson(s). Subsequent discussions resulted in a consensus to rotate the chair responsibilities between Gary Bobker, Jason Peltier, and Greg Gartrell with each serving as chair for four months of the year. The operating rules were changed slightly to reflect that the Ecosystem Roundtable members serve at the discretion of the BDAC chair. The Roundtable approved the operating procedures with the understanding that they could modify them if needed in the future.

Cindy Darling continued her presentation with a discussion of the role of the Ecosystem Roundtable. The Roundtable's mission is to provide stakeholder input on implementation of ecosystem restoration activities over the next 3 to 5 years. The Roundtable's role is separate from the concurrent Programmatic EIR process, and is focussed on implementation rather than long range planning. This is distinct from the mission of the existing BDAC Ecosystem Workgroup, who's role is to provide stakeholder input on the overall Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan which is part of the long range planning.

Discussion ensued regarding the materials presented to the Roundtable. The questions and issues raised in this discussion fell into several broad categories, including:

- Potential difficulties in implementing restoration actions and the need to develop tools to overcome those difficulties including the need to address permitting for projects,
- The scope of the coordination role of the Ecosystem Roundtable with other programs,
- The incorporation of CVPIA objectives and activities into the Roundtable,

- The appropriate mechanism for interaction with the CALFED Management Team,
- The degree to which goals for non-CALFED programs will be acknowledged or incorporated, and
- The appropriate tools available for the Roundtable to use and the products expected to be produced.

These issues were recorded on flip charts and are included as an attachment (with some modification and organization). CALFED staff will work to clarify the materials presented to the Roundtable and address these issues in the package to be mailed out prior to the next meeting.

Additional issues and concerns which were discussed later in the meeting included the need to have federal and state agency representative involvement. There was consensus that the agency representatives should be invited to future Roundtable meetings. Additional concerns were expressed regarding the Roundtable's funding process, specifically that projects that have been rejected at other levels within the CALFED Bay-Delta Program or BDAC not be recommended for funding by the Roundtable.

Lester Snow providing some concluding remarks regarding the role of the Roundtable to take goals and objectives from the Ecosystem Restoration Program and implement them, rather than revise or discuss them. He suggested that a list of goals, objectives, and subobjectives for the Roundtable be provided at the next meeting.

Next steps and meetings:

The next meeting of the Ecosystem Roundtable is set for Friday, December 13, 1996, 9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the State Water Resources Control Board Hearing Room. The January meeting was also set for Monday, January 13, 1997, 10:00 a.m. - 3 p.m., although the meeting will be shortened if sufficient progress is made at the December meeting.